

## From the National Capital

Everything moving along nicely, excepting the attendance at meetings not so good as it was the past month. Much sickness here just now and considerable excitement by reason of small pox in this section of the city. On account of getting a baptistery placed in the church and getting other work done which we considered absolutely necessary we have had but little time left for anything else for the last two or three weeks. We are glad to report very favorable progress however, and some pledges still being redeemed which comes in nicely at this time. Next week we expect, the Lord willing, to attend the conference at Bethlehem, Virginia. Trust that much good may be accomplished, and that all may be strengthened thereby, and so be the better qualified to do the work of the Master. In my last letter I forgot to report a very pleasant call from brother Jesse Hays, of Greenland, West Va. He was on his way to Baltimore to visit his son.

Brother Homer Lemon is now making a short visit to his mother's at Laurel Dale, West Va., and brother R. I. Garber and wife are visiting her mother's home in Maryland. Before returning they expect to visit his parents in Virginia.

And just now I recall the prophecy made by Brother Garber a few months ago when he referred in his "Echoes" to the marriage of certain ones of our number, saying, that "others" would soon "follow."

That is right Brother G. We have heard that we should always try to answer our own prayers, so we should always try to "make our word good" and not be among the false prophets.

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## Ecumenical Echoes and Observations

Below is an extract from a paper sent to the Conference by Mrs. Isabella Bira Bishop of London:

The study of these Oriental creeds and their fruits compels me to the conclusion that there is no resurrection power in any of them, and that the sole hope for the religious, political and moral future of the countries of Asia lies in the acceptance of that other and later Oriental creed which is centered in that Divine person to whom, in spite of her divisions, Christendom bows the adoring knee.

Among the prominent and outstanding fruits of these religions which have fallen so low are shameless corruption and infamies of practice past belief in the administration of government, which have obtained the sanction of custom. Law is simply an engine of oppression, and justice a commodity to be bought and sold like any other, and which the poor have no means of buying. Lying is universal, and no shame attends the discovered falsehood. There are polygamy and polyandry, with their infinite degradation, and the enthronement and deification of vice, many of the deities of India being the incarnations of unthinkable wickedness. There are unbridled immoralities and cor-

ruptions, and no public opinion to condemn them or to sustain men in doing right. Infanticide is openly practised. There is no truth and no trust between man and man, and no man trusts any woman. Every system of medicine in the East is allied with witchcraft, sorcery and demonolatry. Immorality prevails universally. Some of the nations are given up to unmentionable infamies, and nearly always the priests and monks are in advance of the people in immoral practices.

Let us steadily bear in mind the fact that tho during this century nearly 4,000,000 persons won by missionary effort have been baptized into the Christian Church, there are now more than 100,000,000 more heathen and Moslems in the world than when the century began. We must face the truth.

The above extract needs no comments from me. Any-one knowing the meaning of the English language and noticing its modest use in Mrs. Bishop's words, can read between the lines the inexpressible degradation of the hordes of India. All this may be *and can only be* changed by the gospel of Christ.

There was at the Conference a native India woman by the name of Miss Leilivati Singh, who addressed that large audience with a clearness of thought, a wideness of comprehension, a beauty of diction, delicacy of touch, and evidences of piety not surpassed by any other speaker that I heard. This proves what the gospel of Christ will do if its powers are brought to bear upon the degraded of the world.

Suffer another extract from an address by Rev. A. W. Rudisill agent for the Methodist Episcopal Publishing House in Madras, India, which goes to show that that people may not only be saved by the gospel of Christ but that they have the capacity to master at least the mechanical arts, and no doubt just as well the higher arts and sciences of the highest civilization. Dr. Rudisill says:

So essential is an electrotyping foundry in this time of rapid progress in cheap literature that no publishing house in American or European cities can engage in the whirl of competition in cheap printing without its aid, and not until the same process is used in printing Oriental vernaculars, with their many delicately curved letters, can large quantities of books be printed at small cost.

In order also to meet the demand for illustrations in commercial work and in Christian literature the mission press must be equipped with a photo-engraving plant. The suggestion that mission presses in large cities should be thus furnished has been put into practical operation in the press of which I am the agent.

When I first undertook to bring this about, practical men raised the objection that it would involve the employment of experts in these lines, who must proceed to India and be engaged for some years in instructing the natives, and that the expense would be so great as to render the undertaking unadvisable.

By the help of Providence I was enabled to set up the various plants at home and learn to operate them. Then removing them to India, I there taught the natives what I had learned at home. I found that by the combined use of photo engraving, electrotyping, steam printing, booklet machines, and the cheap labor to be had in Madras, it was possible for us to issue these booklets at the rate of fifty thousand pages for \$1.

In view of the fact that one of the gravest problems connected with mission work is how to find employment for the rapidly increasing converts, it is greatly to be desired that all the employes of a mission press should be Christians. It is only just that those who are of the household of faith should first be provided for.

Some native Christian boys whom I took fourteen years ago are now skilled workmen, and one of them is foreman of our job department. As an instance of his ability, it is a gratification to say that he, together with assistants, has done the composing work for the embossed literature for the blind, which our press is now issuing in Guiurathi, Malayalam, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu and Canarese. To prepare this manuscript for embossing presented a most difficult task for the typesetters; but this native Christian, who some years before had entered our press as an apprentice, so mastered every detail of "justification" connected with this work that he deserves rank among the most skilled compositors of London or New York.

The Hindoo Christian in charge of the photo-engraving department is also a notable instance of what can be accomplished thru native Christian talent. He has not only been successful in learning to produce half-tone and line work by sunlight, but in cloudy weather or the wet season can photograph by electric light. The foregoing facts demonstrate what may be done in the way of training native Christians to become skilled workmen in mission presses.

Brethren ponder the opportunities to do something for God above preaching to people already half preached to death, and the responsibilities that they entail upon us, and these are increasing all the time. Note what Mrs. Bishop says: Four millions of heathen saved through the past century, but the heathen population increased a hundred millions.

This presents a nice question for post-millennialists to answer. When will the world be prepared to meet its Lord at the above rate of preparation for His coming?

If the saving of the world is a hopeless task, the saving of souls is not, praise the Lord; let us do this when it is most needed and promises the greatest results.

JACOB CASSEL.

In ourselves we were scattered; in Christ we are collected together. By nature we wander, driven headlong to destruction; in Christ we find the way to the gate of life.—*Calvin.*